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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 6, no. 3]

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Selected Acquisitions

The University of Kentucky's Two-Millionth Volume: The Gettysburg Address

Kentuckian Abraham Lincoln's speech at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania is a classic of American thought, and its printed text is the University of Kentucky's two-millionth volume. The eloquence and sublimity of Lincoln's few words, well-known though they are today, stand in ironic contrast to the great oration of the occasion's featured speaker, Edward Everett of Massachusetts—former Governor, Congressman, Senator, Secretary of State, Minister to Great Britain, Professor of Greek, and President of Harvard.

A marvel on the platform, Edward Everett had raised over \$150,000 for charitable causes, including the purchase of Mount Vernon, through his personal appearances. The date of the ceremony, 19 November 1863, accommodated a delay of nearly a month in order to allow Everett to draft and rehearse his two-hour address. His speech was published in advance as a newspaper supplement, and, without notes, he delivered it in faultless declamation.

Lincoln, who spoke for approximately two minutes, had been asked near the first of the month to make "a few appropriate remarks" at Gettysburg. The initial reception of his words was colored by the unanticipated brevity of his message; by the unassuming presence of a tall, bespectacled figure obviously reading his recently composed page and a half of manuscript; and by strong partisan bias. The next day, in response to a communication from Everett, Lincoln wrote: "In our respective parts yesterday, you could not have been excused to make a short address, nor I a long one. I am pleased to know that in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure." Many papers, like the *London Times*, found Lincoln's speech "dull and commonplace." Posterity has sided, however, with the *Springfield, Illinois Republican* in finding it a model of "verbal perfection and beauty."

The University of Kentucky's two-millionth volume is an early

AN
ORATION
DELIVERED ON
THE BATTLEFIELD OF GETTYSBURG,
(November 19, 1863,)

AT THE
CONSECRATION OF THE CEMETERY

PREPARED FOR THE INTERMENT OF THE REMAINS OF THOSE WHO
FELL IN THE BATTLES OF JULY 1ST, 2D, AND 3D, 1863.

BY
EDWARD EVERETT.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
INTERESTING REPORTS OF THE DEDICATORY CEREMONIES ;
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BATTLEFIELD ;
INCIDENTS AND DETAILS OF THE BATTLES, &c.

NEW YORK :
BAKER & GODWIN, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
PRINTING-HOUSE SQUARE, OPPOSITE CITY HALL.
1863.

pamphlet printing of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Just one other version (of which only two copies are known to exist) predates this slender booklet which preserves on page forty Lincoln's famous speech.

Support From the Office of the President

The University Libraries have benefitted greatly during the past year from the encouragement and material support of the Office of the President. Dr. Otis Singletary, who originally suggested that a gift to the university by the late Edward F. Prichard, Jr. be directed to the library for the support of visiting lecturers, has recently brought about an increase in the Prichard Fund which will enhance its value both to the institution and to the community. In addition, he has provided additional funding to assist the activity of the library-based Oral History Program. Perhaps most significantly, Dr. Singletary has made a generous supplement to the book fund for the coming year which will do much to enhance the libraries' research collections. The libraries are especially grateful to Dr. Singletary for the interest shown during his administration in encouraging library activities and collections.

The Donovan Trust

The libraries have recently received a generous grant from the Donovan Trust Fund. Established by the late Herman Lee Donovan, President of the University of Kentucky from 1941 to 1956, the Trust Fund is dedicated, among other worthy causes, to the "purchase of good and beautiful books." Prof. Karl Raitz, Chairman of the Donovan Committee, advised the libraries of the award, directing that the funds be applied to the purchase of Abbeville Press's *Vatican Frescoes of Michaelangelo*. The title was one of several proposed by the libraries following consultation with faculty from the Department of Art.

Addison G. Foster Papers

The libraries have received as a gift from Mrs. Dunster Duncan Foster Pettit the papers of the late Addison Gardner Foster II. A native of Tacoma, Washington, Mr. Foster had strong ties to Lexington through the Gibson, Hart, and Duncan families, and he attended the University of Kentucky Law School just prior to World War I. The papers cover a long career in business and

public service, the great bulk dealing with European matters. An authority in the field of transportation, especially shipbuilding and maritime affairs, Addison Foster played a key role as a U.S. representative in the Organization for European Economic Recovery and other activities in rebuilding continental transportation following World War II. The Foster Papers contain correspondence, documents, and photographs dealing with his career as well as a valuable group of nineteenth-century family papers.

Modern Fine Printing

Prof. Clifford Amyx has made a gift to the libraries of a series of books produced by hand in his Lexington studio. The subjects of the volumes include Italian and other European proverbs, Confucian texts, haiku, oriental calligraphic forms, figure studies, mythical beasts, observations on print makers, comments by artists and philosophers, and passages on epistemology. Each title represents one of a small edition combining letterpress text with original illustrations. Linecuts, typography, color, proportion, papers, and binding—all appropriate to specific content—coalesce in these charming works. Some, such as the *Tao Te Ching* of Lao-Tsü, are stitched in oriental fashion; others form portfolios in the tradition of the French *livre d'artiste*. These fourteen fine specimens of graphic design form a valuable part of Lexington's tradition of the handmade book.

Nightside is a collection of poems by Dorothy Coomer Wile, a Cincinnati writer from Burnside, Kentucky. The work was published in April of 1985 by Prasada Press of Cincinnati, a fine art lithographic press. The book was designed by Janice Forberg, owner of the press, and contains in its lithographs her interpretations of the poems. The edition was printed by Karl Hecksher. The Prasada Press has been active since 1979 and has produced over fifty editions of prints. These include works of Japanese and American print-makers, with one edition by the architect Michael Graves.

The libraries were fortunate to be able to add two items to the collection of fine printing of Victor Hammer. These recently obtained works are *Pieces for an Artist's Testament* and *Type Design in Relation to Language and to the Art of the Punch Cutter*.



... the only possible salvation lies in a
reasoned and frank return to principle.
And this return is to be accomplished
by symbolism.

Paul Gauguin, 1890

*Portrait of Paul Gauguin from Clifford Amyx, The Painters on Art
(1979)*

British Literature

The University of Kentucky's collection of Thomas Gray includes not only the first edition of his famous *Elegy*, but various other significant appearances of his work, as well. These embrace the first English private press book, *Odes by Mr. Gray*, printed at Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill Press, a collection of the poems printed at Parma by the famous Italian typographer Giambattista Bodoni, and an eighteenth-century edition of the poems with illustrations by the poet's gifted friend Richard Bentley. The libraries have recently acquired an edition of Gray printed by the foremost printer in eighteenth-century Scotland, Andrew Foulis. In 1787 at Glasgow, this handsome folio of Gray's *Poetical Works* came from the press of Foulis, "Printer to the University." The work was published by subscription, and on the subscribers list one finds the great English bibliophile of Althorpe, George John, Earl Spencer, as well as Charles-James Fox and Adam Smith. As a pendant to the *Elegy*, we have secured Robert Lloyd's contemporary burlesque, *An Evening Contemplation in a College. Being a Parody on the Elegy in a Country Church-Yard*, published at London by R. and J. Dodsley in 1753.

The libraries have acquired a classic juvenile title in *The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and her Dog*, published in London in 1805 by John Harris. The work was written by Sarah Catherine Martin in 1804. The original manuscript, kept in the author's family papers, has been reproduced in facsimile by the Oxford University Press. John Harris obtained, through Elizabeth Newbery, the business firm of John Newbery, for whom the popular Newbery Award is given today for excellence in children's books. The juvenile books of Harris, like those of Newbery and the Godwins, are valued today as early examples of a kind of publication which, because of the intended market and audience, did not survive in great numbers.

Other recent acquisitions include several titles which augment the special strength of the W. Hugh Peal Collection, nineteenth-century British literature. These include *Poems on Various Subjects* by Lamb's friend Charles Lloyd. This uncommon collection of early Romantic verse was published at Carlisle in 1795, prior to the poet's friendships with Coleridge, Lamb, DeQuincey, and Southey. We have also acquired works by two nineteenth-century poet laureates—William Wordsworth's minor poem *Peter Bell* (1819) and Alfred, Lord Tennyson's popular *Enoch Arden* (1864).

The libraries have acquired an undated letter of Charles Lamb to the nineteenth-century diarist Henry Crabbe Robinson relating to a pirated American edition of Lamb's second volume of *Elia* essays. "I have the American reprint of my collected volume," writes Lamb, "but I am startled at the second series. . . ." He advises notifying Edward Moxon, his London publisher, saying, "Pray lose no time in communicating this to him orally or scripturally, 64 New Bond Street." An unauthorized Philadelphia edition appeared in 1828, and Robinson has made a note, dated December 1832, at the bottom of the letter: "It is my conviction that posterity will rank Lamb with Sterne in genius & taste; In moral worth, he rises infinitely above—L: is the highly esteemed friend of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey."

— James D. Birchfield